

WARS 75th History Article 2: *The Creation of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society*

Dan Brown W1DAN

In our first radio club history article last month, we explored war-time Wellesley Civil Defense with local hams using the War Emergency Radio Service and we indicated that a few of these volunteers back then would end up starting our club in 1951. Today we will describe post-war Civil Defense and the beginnings of our club to the best of our ability. There is no early club documentation in our archives and the charter members are Silent Keys. Information for this article came from the town of Wellesley annual reports, Online archives of the Wellesley Townsman newspaper, The Wellesley ARRL Affiliation application, Newton Civil Defense documents at the Newton Library, old QST magazines, and some memorabilia I have at the W1DAN radio oasis.

Peacetime Club Activity

After World War II ended in 1945 WERS was disbanded nationally, the 112MHz 2-1/2 Meter band was moved to 2-meters at 144-148MHz and amateur radio started to expand, fed by the newly radio-trained veterans. As commercial mobile radio was taking off using VHF-FM a small group of hams kept Wellesley Civil Defense in mind by getting together on the air socially. These included future club members Willard Bridges W1NWO and Ted Hale W1FFO, along with Rodman Sharp W1OGM, brother Steve W1QIK, Duke Hebert W1HJ and Gordon Humphrey W1BBO.

In Newton, future WARS member Harry McDade W1LMU kept his homebrew 2-1/2 meter AM transmitter operational, having worked local stations in 1940 and 1941 before the war started, then after the war he continued in 1945 but had to re-tune the radio set to 144MHz in December when the 2-1/2 meter band was re-allocated. Soon Harry would volunteer for Newton's Civil Defense.

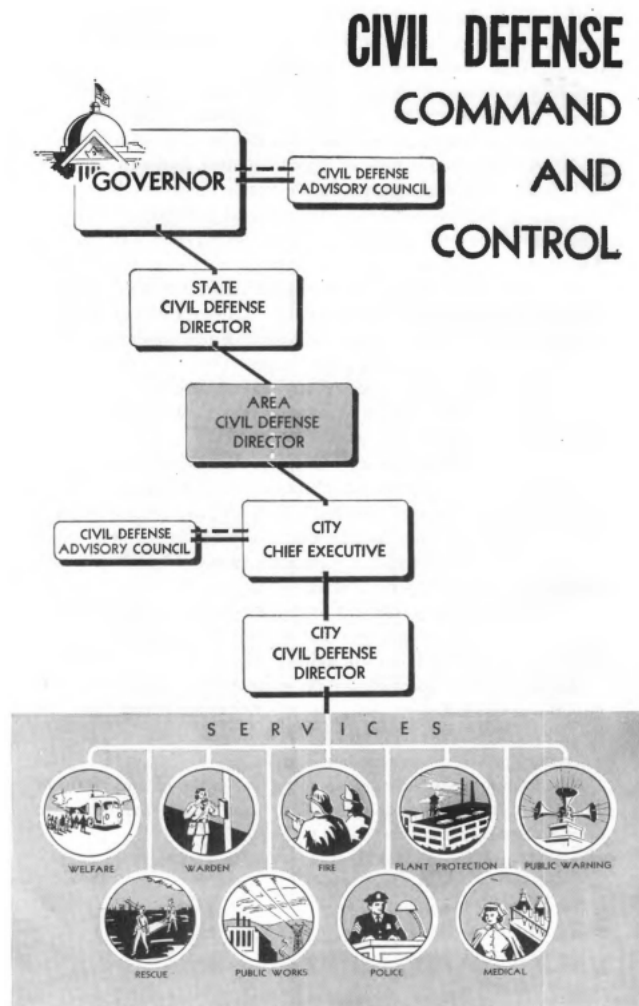
Around 1950 there were many radio clubs in the area before our club was formed, such as the Framingham club, Eastern Mass Amateur Radio Club, South Shore club, Brockton club, T-9 club, The Merrimack Valley club, The Fall River Amateur Radio Club, Waltham, Boston, Quannapowitt Radio Association, etc. Some clubs were just social, while others had a main goal of emergency communications. Nearby hams in Newton (later forming the Middlesex Club, W1HEB) held emergency nets and drills with Harry W1LMU being an emergency communications director. There was also an active Newton Emergency Net with Alan Burke W1RM being the communications head of Newton.

As radio clubs popped up after the War, emergency communications efforts spread across the country, led by the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC). Clubs and individuals experimented with the higher frequency bands-particularly 10, 6 and 2-meters, both at home and mobile. They operated nets, assisted in real disasters and participated in the annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Tests. There was a New England Emergency Net on 3975Kc AM and

1.8Mc, and a Newton Emergency Net on the last Tuesday of the month at 145.62Mc AM, which Harry participated in.

Civil Defense Renewal

Formed in 1947, the National Security Resources Board (NSRB) managed Civil Defense for the United States. This created synergy between state and local emergency management. As the Cold War arms race began with the USSR testing their first atomic bomb in 1949, the October 1950 QST magazine gave news about the pending NSRB Civil Defense plans for amateur radio, and the issue also listed the ARRL Emergency Coordinators in the country on a full page, revealing how the ARRL was promoting emergency communications. Ray Boardman W1BL of Newton was the New England Division ARRL Emergency Coordinator at the time and would later help form the Wellesley Amateur Radio Club. In his ARRL role, Ray appointed Section Emergency Coordinators, who would then appoint city and town Emergency Coordinators.



NSRB Civil Defense organization promoted backup amateur radio to support local services during a disaster (from NSRB Document 128, 1950)

Section Emergency Coördinators of the ARRL Emergency Corps

The Section Emergency Coördinator is appointed by the SCM to take charge of the promotion of the ARRL Emergency Corps organization throughout the Section. He acts as the SCM's executive in the furthering of provisions for emergency amateur radio communications in every community likely to suffer in case of a communications emergency. One of the duties of the SEC is to recommend the appointment of Emergency Coördinators for the various communities in his Section. Does *your* town have an EC? If not, recommend the name of a likely prospect to the SEC. The SEC invites your questions concerning the status of the AEC in your Section.

ATLANTIC DIVISION				
Eastern Pennsylvania	W3ISE	W. T. Shreve	1507 Niessen Rd.	Oreland
Maryland-Delaware-D.C.	W3EIS	Donald McClenon		Beltsville, Md.
Southern New Jersey	W2ORS	Charles B. Roop	201 Pavilion Ave.	Riverside
Western New York	W2SJV	Ed Graf	81 King St.	Tonawanda
Western Pennsylvania	W3OMA	Walter P. Remele	20 N. Howard Ave.	Bellevue
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Illinois	W9QLZ	Geo. E. Keith, jr.	RFD 2, Box 22A	Utica
Indiana				
Wisconsin	W9YYY	Clarence Wahner	3351 N. 14th St.	Milwaukee
DAKOTA DIVISION				
North Dakota	W0SSW/NRO	John S. Glass	601 17th	Bismarck
South Dakota	W0HDO	Coy Delapp	c/o Montgomery Ward Store	Mitchell
	W0CLA	Frank Mayer	511 St. Joe St.	Rapid City
Minnesota	W0BOL	Robert A. Prehm	1130 Delaware Ave.	St. Paul 7
DELTA DIVISION				
Arkansas	W5EA	Leo V. Briens	6th William	Carlisle
Louisiana	W5KTE	James M. Coleman	6900 Louisville St.	New Orleans
Mississippi	W5MUG	Floyd C. Teetson	122 West Fourth St.	Hattiesburg
Tennessee	W4FDF	John A. Oliver	135 Marshall Circle	Oak Ridge
GREAT LAKES DIVISION				
Kentucky	W4BEW	E. G. Leachman	1314 Maryland Court	Ashland
Michigan	W8GJH	Francis E. Gary	620 Thayer Street	Flint 3
Ohio	W8UPB	Dana Cartright, sr.	Box 82	Lockland
HUDSON DIVISION				
Eastern New York	W2CLL	George W. Sleeper	76 Fuller Rd., Rt. 96	Albany 3
N.Y.C. & Long Island	W2BGO	Vincent T. Kenney	140-45 Ash Ave.,	Flushing, L. I.
Northern New Jersey	W2VQR	Lloyd H. Manamon	410 1/2 Fifth Avenue	Asbury Park
MIDWEST DIVISION				
Iowa	W0RFP	T. J. Innis	R.R. 1, Lincoln Road	Bettendorf
Kansas	W0PAH	W. G. Schrank	1528 Pierre St.	Manhattan
Missouri	W0VRF	O. H. Huggins	3605 E. 72nd St.	Kansas City
Nebraska	W0RQK	William T. Gemmer	1708 West Sixth Street	North Platte
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION				
Connecticut	W1LKF	Peter R. de Bruyn	163 South Marshall St.	Hartford 5
Maine	W1IGW	Donald R. Dean	36 James St.	Auburn
Eastern Massachusetts	W1BL	Raymond E. Boardman	53 Thurston Road	Newton Upper Falls 64
Western Massachusetts	W1UD	Isaiah Creaser	76 Cortland St.	Springfield
New Hampshire	W1KYG	Timothy Apostolos	93 Benjamin Rd.	Manchester
Rhode Island	W1MIJ	Carl M. Getter	185 Early St.	Providence
Vermont	W1JEN	Harold Drown	15 1/2 Peru St.	Burlington
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION				
Alaska	KL7PE	John H. Huber	16th & Maryanne St.	Fairbanks
Idaho	W7IWU	Alan K. Ross	2105 Irene St.	Boise
Montana	W7CT	Leslie E. Crouter	608 Yellowstone Ave.	Billings
Oregon	W7HLF	Dwight J. Albright	Box 508	Medford
Washington	W7KAA	H. D. Weeden	Route 4, Box 174	Port Orchard
PACIFIC DIVISION				
Hawaii	KH6AS	John Keawe	714 Ocean View Drive	Honolulu
Nevada	W7JU	Ray T. Warner	539 Birch St.	Boulder City
Santa Clara Valley				
East Bay	W6OBJ	Omar Day	1441 81st Ave.	Oakland
San Francisco	W6NL	Samuel C. Van Liew	215 Knowles Ave.	Daly City
Sacramento Valley	W6KME	E. J. Schoenbackler	1622 Que Street	Sacramento 14
ROANOKE DIVISION				
North Carolina	W4KJS	C. E. Beard	2824 Bon Aire	Winston-Salem
South Carolina	W4ANK	T. Hunter Wood	Route 6, Box 690	Naval Base
Virginia	W4IWA	George A. Cottrell, jr.	707 Maple Ave.	Richmond 26
West Virginia	W8FMU	Ray Wardle	501 Pythian St.	Morgantown
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION				
Colorado	W0KHQ	O. E. Cunningham	Massachusetts St.	Eads
Utah	W7UTM	Floyd Hinshaw	165 East 4th North St.	Bountiful
Wyoming	W7HDS	Mrs. Lizette Wolf	3222 Dillon Ave.	Cheyenne
SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION				
Alabama	W4MBA	Robert M. Avery	117 Coffee Street	Talladega
Eastern Florida	W4IQV	Albert G. Snow, jr.	314 W. St. John Street	Lake City
Western Florida	W4ACB	S. Monte Douglas, jr.	P.O. Box 3	Tallahassee
Georgia	W4MMB	Fred M. Stafford	1132 West Peachtree St., N.W.	Atlanta
West Indies (Cuba-P.R.-V.I.)	KP4ES	Pedro J. Piza	Box 2001	Ponce, P.R.
Canal Zone	KZ5FL	Frank H. Lerchen	Box 124	Balboa
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION				
Los Angeles	W6ESR	S. A. Greenlee	1701 Sepulveda Blvd.	Manhattan Beach
Arizona	W7OIF	Cameron Allen	1020 E. Maryland	Phoenix
San Diego				
WEST GULF DIVISION				
Northern Texas	W5BKH	William A. Green	1834 University Boulevard	Abilene
Oklahoma	W5AGM	Claude E. Gardner	2520 Cashion Pl.	Oklahoma City
Southern Texas	W5GLS	George N. Sharp	3541 Federal St.	Pasadena
New Mexico	W5BYX	William Edens	Box 426	Truth or Consequences
MARITIME DIVISION				
Maritime (Nfld. & Labr. att.)	VE1FQ	L. J. Fader	125 Henry St.	Halifax, N. S.
ONTARIO DIVISION				
Ontario	VE3KM	T. W. Clemence	King St.	East Bartonville, Ont.
QUEBEC DIVISION				
Quebec	VE2A	Gordon S. Waugh	5184 King Edward Ave.	Montreal, P. Q.
VANALTA DIVISION				
Alberta	VE6MJ	Sydney T. Jones	P.O. Box 373	Edmonton, Alta.
British Columbia	VE7ID	R. O. Norman	8090 Main Street	Vancouver, B. C.
Yukon				
PRAIRIE DIVISION				
Manitoba				
Saskatchewan	VE5SE	S. Ewert		Herbert, Sask.

*October 1950 QST ARRL Emergency Corps Coordinators list by section, possibly the first list.
Ray W1BL of Newton was the Eastern Massachusetts section ARRL Emergency Corps
Coordinator.*

In September of 1950 the 81st Congress passed a law establishing a national Civil Defense department for disaster assistance and soon formed the *Federal Civil Defense Administration* (FCDA), which created an organizational plan for Civil Defense that promoted the use of amateur radio communications in larger Civil Defense efforts. The FCDA took over Civil Defense planning from the NSRB and modernized it for the atomic age. Federal funds were eventually sent to each town to help establish a local Civil Defense group and on average each town received up to 50% reimbursement from the Federal Matching Funds Program.



In January of 1951 President Truman passed the *Civil Defense Act of 1950* creating a framework for Civil Defense that the states, cities and towns could use to protect their citizens during a disaster or attack. Around this time the FCC designated frequencies between 1750-1800kc for CD use under the *Disaster Communications Service* rules (See April 1951 QST). This allowed various town agencies with a DCS license to talk with each other, including hams.

Massachusetts Civil Defense

With guidance from the Federal laws, Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created the *Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency* and the *Office of Emergency Preparedness*. Section 13 created local town Civil Defense organizational plans under MEMA, which Wellesley Civil Defense was organized. In each town's Civil Defense effort, the Deputy Director of Communications managed all forms of alternative communications, including telephone, telegraph, messenger, and broadcast and amateur radio in case the town or state's communications went down during an emergency. This encouraged hams to use town-bought gear for local Civil Defense efforts.

7. - Deputy Director of Communications. This Deputy Director shall have the duty and mission to take charge of all means of communication for Civil Defense, namely, telephone, telegraph, radio, teletype, emergency messenger service, short wave radio, and other emergency means. Existing telephone, telegraph, and radio facilities will be used insofar as it is possible, but provision will be made for emergency communication as an alternate means of transmitting messages when regular facilities are out of order. All existing communication facilities will be maintained by their owners, and repair and restoration of services will be done by the responsible companies themselves, using their own staffs and personnel for these purposes, supplemented, if need be, by such assistance as they may require in the form of workers to be supplied them by Civil Defense.

This Deputy Director will do the following:

- a. Form a communication advisory council to consist of a representative of the telephone company, the telegraph company, radio broadcasting station, the police, the fire department, and the Civil Defense air raid local warning service (when authorized), and private gas and electric companies and taxi cab and bus companies, for the purpose of making a survey of communication facilities that will aid in Civil Defense requirements.
- b. Provide an inventory of portable two way radios, public and privately owned sound trucks, portable amplifying devices, etc.
- c. Plan for auxiliary communications for the local Civil Defense control center, tied in with a perimeter of short wave amateur sets around the City and connected with State and Federal echelons of short wave communications.
- d. Make recommendations to the Director for other means of emergency communications such as mobile radio telephones, etc.

Communications Director Job Description as of October 1950 (From City of Newton Plan and Program for Civil Defense, Newton library).

Similar to WWII, the heart of local Civil Defense was the Control Center which is also the CD command post where all reports and communications arrive at, and commands disseminated to the town's Civil Defense workers. The town Control Center could also communicate directly with a nearby Sector and MEMA. Of course, each Control Center had a phone bank and a backup amateur radio station.

In 1951 QST Magazine promoted the ARRL's Amateur Emergency Corps efforts with the column



"With the AREC" (for the newly named Amateur Radio Emergency Corps) to promote and report on emergency communication activities. Members of radio clubs signed up to be in the Emergency Corps, and town Civil Defense Directors of Communications recruited hams.

CD QSO parties and the annual Simulated Emergency Tests were held.

The QST column listed the new national emergency HF ham frequencies designated for use during an emergency or training as per the FCC and Civil Defense Administration. The public

knew of the Amateur's role in public service communications (sadly today they do not). The relatively new VHF and UHF bands were promoted for local town communications while the lower bands were used to reach regions and state Civil Defense. Also in 1951, CONELRAD was created to alert local citizens via special AM broadcast transmitters (later to be replaced by EBS and now EAS).

NATIONAL CALLING AND EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES	
C. W.	'PHONE
7100 kc. (day)	3875 kc.
3550 kc. (night)	14,225 kc.
14,050 kc.	29,640 kc.
28,100 kc.	

During periods of communications emergency these channels will be monitored by stations of the National Emergency Net for personal-inquiry traffic. At other times, these frequencies can be used as general calling frequencies to expedite general traffic movement between amateur stations. Emergency traffic has precedence. After contact has been made the frequency should be *vacated immediately* to accommodate other callers.

The following are the National Calling and Emergency Frequencies for Canada: *c.w.* — 3535, 7050, 14,060 kc.; *'phone* — 3815, 14,160 kc.



National Emergency HF frequencies in the January 1951 QST

Wellesley Civil Defense Renewal

With Massachusetts creating state Civil Defense with MEMA, city and town Civil Defense units popped up and the town of Wellesley formed its Civil Defense Agency in the fall of 1950 under the direction of town CD head Neal Williams. The town appropriated \$31,955 to get Civil Defense started and \$2,480 for the first year for a CD radio system. Irving P. Gramkow was the first the Director who then appointed MIT '39 graduate and WWII veteran U. S. Navy Lt. Commander Donald W. Scully W1HRY as Deputy Director of Communications of the renewed Wellesley Civil Defense (later Don professionally ran D. W. Scully Associates Contractors-Engineers in town). Civil Defense became a familiar system during the Cold War into the 1970s with many fallout shelter signs to be seen.



From their 17th annual report ending December 1951, The FCC promoted amateur radio use (Page 100):

In addition, the Amateur Radio Service has a high degree of national value. It constitutes a reserve of self-trained radio technicians and operators upon which the country can draw in times of war and other national need, and its special networks, the equipment of its stations, and other amateur activities have proved extremely

valuable in the national defense program. In the planning for the defense of the civilian population in case of armed attack, the Federal Civil Defense Administration is encouraging the integration of amateur radio stations, operators and networks into the local civil defense organizations to provide civil defense communication. To assist in the planning of civil defense communication and the utilization of amateurs for that purpose, the Commission on January 17, 1951, in cooperation with the Federal Civil Defense Administration and with the concurrence of the Armed Forces, announced that certain portions of the regularly allocated amateur frequency bands are to remain available for use of amateur radio stations and operators to provide communication for civil defense activities after any suspension of normal amateur activity which may be found to be necessary because of war or other national emergency, and that regulations to govern the use of those frequency bands in the civil defense program would be the subject of later action by the Commission. At the close of the fiscal year, this matter was under active study by the Commission, with the possibility that proposed rules to govern the operation of amateur stations and operators for civil defense purposes would be made public during the latter part of 1951.

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-308671A1.pdf>

Also in their December 1950 Annual Report, the FDCA reported progress on the communications structure:

Emergency Communications

Effective direction of civil defense forces in an emergency requires a well organized system of communications. Considerable progress has been made in the last twelve months in setting up such a system, using existing commercial wires and a radio network as alternative means. Some equipment is being procured by the Federal Government, and \$1,500,000 in Federal funds has been allocated to the States for the purchase of communications equipment.

The FDCA national headquarters now is connected with the nine regional offices and with 35 State civil defense offices by teletype. Early in 1952 all of the State civil defense offices will be linked into this TWX network.

About 80,000 amateur radio operators located throughout the United States have been enlisted with their equipment, for civil defense purposes. A plan has been completed and will soon be issued covering the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. This plan calls for about 200,000 volunteers to join this part of the civil defense communications program.

https://ia800808.us.archive.org/6/items/CivilDefense_201901/Fcda-1951-AnnualReportFor1951.pdf

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Begins!

Wellesley Civil Defense directors and department heads held their first meeting on February 10, 1951, at the Wellesley Hills branch library at the intersection of Routes 16 and 9.



The Wellesley Hills branch library where Wellesley Civil Defense and our club met and W1TKZ had a station in the basement from 1951 to 1975 (W1DAN photo).

The club hosted weekly training courses for prospective hams at the library and held a Sunday morning net (Civil Defense "weekly radio exercises") from its inception for at least 25 years. As noted on the front page of the *Wellesley Townsman* on February 22, 1951:

The report of Mr. Donald Scully, Deputy Director of Communications, is given here: Fifteen have already volunteered for Communications. According to law, however, only licensed radio operators may operate transmitters. Hence, changes are being sought in the law for Civil Defense work. Nevertheless, an emergency crew of 22 Boy Scouts and High Schoolers interested in communications is available for service.

As required under operating regulations, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society has been formed. Application is being made to the Federal Communications Commission for a special operating license and call letters. It is hoped that "W1WCD" will be assigned. Two-way radio communication with Newton has already been established.

Except for one transmitter and receiver, none of the required Communications' equipment has yet been received. But, in anticipation of its arrival, three high-frequency antennae have been installed at strategic locations in the town.

And the July 1951 QST Station Activities column noted this:

held the 3rd Thursday of the month at Town Hall. The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society has been formed with the call TKZ. Officers are HRY, pres. and trustee; NWO, vice-pres.; RPM, secy. Meetings are held in the Wellesley Hills Library. DJ and OIR work PS in Lovell, Maine, on

And further down the page:

beam. The Newton gang had a demonstration of equipment made by Northeastern Radio & Eldico and units made by NSZ, OEJ, and SH. Wellesley has Eldico units and 300-watt generators. LVN is building crystal converter for 144

Our club possibly started with Eldico 2M mobile transmitters and receivers, or the fixed station TR-75 kit. The TR-75 was an 80-10m 60-watt CW transmitter that used a 6AG5 crystal oscillator feeding a 1625 (a 12v 807) beam tetrode power tube.

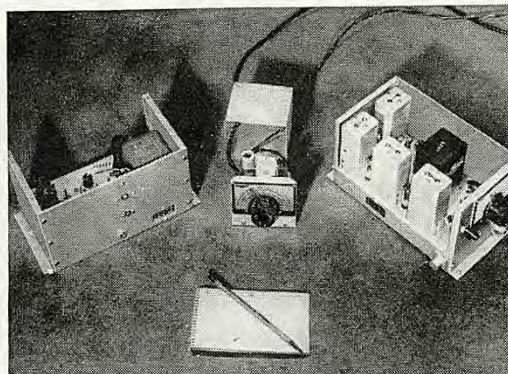


Eldico TR-75 fixed station HF AM transmitter

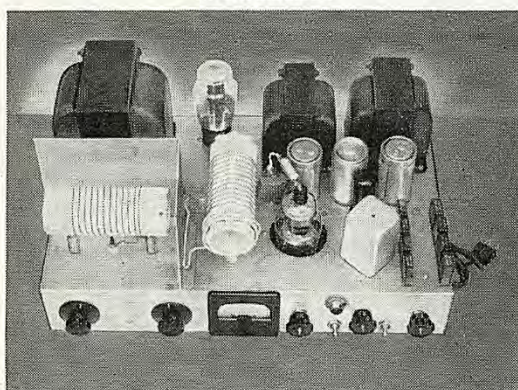
For Civilian Defense or Amateur . . .



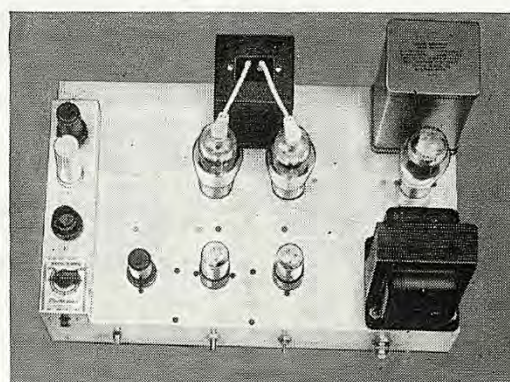
TR-1 Transmitter



2-Mtr. Mobile Rcvr. & Xmtr.



TR-75-TV Transmitter



MD-100 Modulator

ELDICO'S FINE PRODUCTS CAN BE FOUND AT ALL THESE LEADING DISTRIBUTORS

Allied Radio Corp.
833 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 7, Illinois

Walter Ashe Radio Co.
1125 Pine Street
St. Louis 1, Missouri

Low Bonn Co.
67 South 12th St.
Minneapolis, Minn.

C & G Radio Supply
2502 Jefferson Ave.
Tacoma, Washington

Crawford Radio
King William and Hughson
Hamilton, Ontario

M. N. Duffy and Co.
2040 Grand River Ave., West
Detroit 26, Mich.

W. H. Edwards Company
94 Broadway
Providence 3, R. I.

Electronic Wholesalers
2010 14th St. N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

Federated Purchasers, Inc.
1115 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa.

Federated Purchasers, Inc.
114 Hudson Street
Newark, N. J.

Federated Purchasers, Inc.
701 North Hampton Street
Easton, Pa.

Harrison Radio Corp.
12 West Broadway
New York 7, N. Y.

Harrison Radio Corp.
Jamaica Branch
172-31 Hillside Ave.
Jamaica, L. I., N. Y.

Harvey Radio Co. Inc.
103 West 43rd St.
New York 18, N. Y.

**Hatry and Young of
Springfield, Inc.**
169 Spring Street
Springfield, Mass.

**Hatry and Young of Mass.,
Inc.**
639 Essex Street
Lawrence, Mass.

**Hatry and Young of
New London, Inc.**
428 Bank Street
New London, Conn.

Henry Radio Stores
211 North Main St.
Butler 1, Mo.

Henry Radio Stores
11240 West Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles 25, Calif.

Radio Amateur Center
Hillsboro Street
Raleigh, N. C.

Radio Equipment Co.
821 West 21st St.
Norfolk 10, Va.

Radio Parts Co., Inc.
538 West State Street
Milwaukee 3, Wis.

Radio Products Sales Co.
1214 1st Ave.
Seattle, Wash.

Radio Products Sales Co.
1237 16th St.
Denver, Colorado

The Radio Shack Corp.
167 Washington Street
Boston, Mass.

World Radio Labs., Inc.
744 West Broadway
Council Bluffs, Iowa

**ELDICO'S
CATALOG 51
AVAILABLE FREE
ON REQUEST
AT YOUR FAVORITE
DISTRIBUTOR**

ELDICO OF NEW YORK • DOUGLSTON, L. I., N. Y.

Eldico Civil Defense radio ad showing station TR-75 transmitter and mobile 2, 6 and 10-meter transmitters and receivers that are rare today (QST April 1951, P82)

RCA TUBE LINE-UPS FOR 1951

6AG7 OSC.
6AG7 MULTIPLIERS
6L6 MODULATOR (CLASS AB1)
6AG7 BUFFER FINAL
2E26

Low cost, high efficiency multi-band rig ...with RCA-2E26 beam power final

HERE'S AN ECONOMY PACKAGE that's *small* in its space and power requirements—but *big* in its accomplishments. With a husky RCA-2E26 beam power tube in the final—plus a pair of RCA-6L6's as modulators—this all-RCA line-up will handle a full 40 watts input on CW, and 27 watts input on phone.

The RCA-2E26 is easy as pie to drive... and delivers full output at low plate voltage. Because it operates at low plate voltages, a single inexpensive power supply may be used for the entire rig.

The RCA-2E26 incorporates superior internal shielding. What's more, the RCA-2E26 can be operated at full input right up to 125 Mc... or at slightly reduced input up to 150 Mc... so here's the basis for a quick-change, multi-band transmitter in one, inexpensive, compact unit that can be used later for driving a higher power final.

To get all the tube power, performance, and life you pay for... buy genuine RCA tubes in the familiar red-black-and-white cartons from your local RCA Tube Distributor.



RADIO CORPORATION of AMERICA
ELECTRON TUBES
HARRISON, N. J.

QST Magazine back page ads often promoted RCA tubes for the experimenter. The new 2E26 was a smaller version of the popular 6146 beam power tetrode and created up to 13 watts at VHF.



So the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society was formed on or before February of 1951 by three Wellesley hams, Willard Bridges W1NWO as Vice President, Ed Dillard W1RPM Secretary with Don W1HRY leading the effort as President, Trustee and Emergency Coordinator. The first “Civil Defense Communications” meeting was on February 10, 1951 at the Wellesley Hills library.

Dom N1DM visited the ARRL Headquarters a couple of years ago and found our affiliation application papers in a cabinet at the League, which revealed 16 charter members including 12 licensed voting members and a total of 23 members at the time of affiliation. Along with Don, Willard, and Ed, there was Treasurer Horace “Skid” Schermerhorn W1TTY, who later led Wellesley Civil Defense. In their 1951 ARRL Affiliation Application:

The purpose of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society is to further the interest in Amateur Radio in the town of Wellesley, and to cooperate with the town by providing equipment and operators for communications in times of emergency.

Charter Members

The club charter members with licenses that were also League members were:

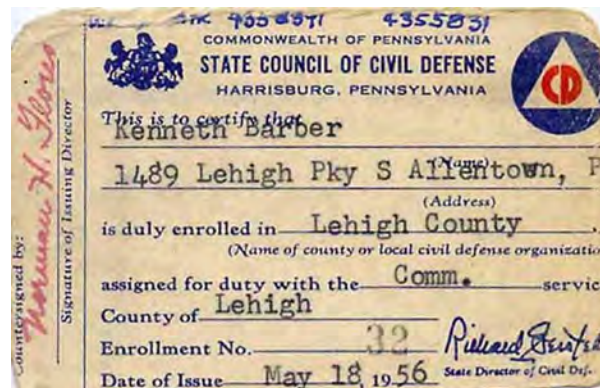
- Don Scully W1HRY (President, station trustee and ARRL emergency coordinator)
- S. Willard Bridges W1NWO (Vice President)
- Ed Dillard W1FRM (Secretary)
- Horace “Skid” Schermerhorn W1TTY (Treasurer)
- Ray Reardon W1BL (New England Division ARRL Emergency Coordinator)
- Herbert Gordon W1IBY (later ran the Herbert W. Gordon Company)
- Al Graf W1OQP
- Ted Hale W1FFO (an SK friend of mine)
- George Loud W1SRG
- Harold Rogers W1QZF

Twelve club members had a home station with two using AM-phone and three using CW. Nine club members had emergency power, one mobile on 2m, two portables on 2m and one on 80m, and of course the club’s station was at the library. The club not only was a Civil Defense operation but had ties to the Red Cross. 12 members were also with the ARRL Emergency

Corps. Don W1HRY was Director of Communications for Wellesley Civil Defense at least until April of 1956.

Boy Scout and School Volunteers

I think the non-hams were school students and boy scouts, as scouting promoted self-reliance and volunteerism to the community. Boys' Life magazine in the 1950s had articles about introductory radio topics and promoted the radio merit badge. As 1951 was the first year the FCC had the simpler Novice license, this was a good way for the young scouts to get a radio badge, a ham license and help with Civil Defense. The Wellesley club was ready to bring local youth into our hobby.



Ken W2DTC's 1956 Civil Defense Communications permit. All radio volunteers had one.



January 1959 Boy's Life magazine with Amateur radio as the subject.



A Boy Scout operating amateur radio in the 1950s, probably as a Novice (from <https://c8.alamy.com/comp/2BF0KE3/>)

Club Affiliation with the ARRL

in September of 1951, club Secretary Ed Dillard W1RPM requested forms for ARRL affiliation, the forms were completed on October 9 and approved by ARRL New England Division Director Percy Noble W1BVR on October 11.



Our ARRL Charter of Affiliation dated November 20, 1951, signed by ARRL Secretary A. L. Budlong W1BUD and President George Bailey W2KH.

First Activities

Dom also recently created a spreadsheet listing much of our leadership since 1951 (it will be available on our website). He did some online Callbook searches and discovered that we were first listed in the fall of 1952 with Don Scully being the trustee until 1956. The club address was 210 Washington Street (the Wellesley Hills library) where the club had a meeting room, radios and generator for Civil Defense. Dues were \$1 per year.



According to the September 20, 1951, edition of the *Wellesley Townsman*, the club held their first *general* meeting on October 3 in the basement of the Wellesley Hills branch library, the town's Civil Defense headquarters. Since the previous spring they held nets for "...the Red Cross, the Civil Defense Agency, and other town service agencies". With the efforts of Ted W1FFO the club taught classes each Wednesday on radio theory and Morse code.

The club met on the first Wednesday evening of the month at the library as most members resided in Wellesley Hills. Many club members operated CW, a few had AM phone (A3 mode) but there were no plans for SSB, a new voice mode at the time.

The club members used town-supplied radios for CD activities, with rigs either at their home, a town building or in a car. An October 4, 1951 issue of the *Townsmen* revealed that the Wellesley Civil Defense group now served the town's emergency communications needs with ten 20-watt stations, one mobile and two radios at the Civil Defense headquarters at the Wellesley Hills library and all gear was town owned. Operations included weekly nets, radio maintenance and service to anyone needing communications as well as code and theory classes. They also planned the town's air raid warning system. The article noted:

The function of this department of Civil Defense, of which Thaxter A. Williams and S. Willard Bridges, Jr., serve as Assistant Deputy Directors, is to provide emergency communication facilities within the town and with other towns to supplement telephone communication or substitute for it should power failure disrupt wire service; to cooperate with Police and Fire Department radio systems in time of disaster; to provide air raid warning service to alert the town; and to make on-the-spot communication facilities available to Medical Aid, Radiological, and Disaster Rescue teams, Air Raid Warden and Red Cross groups, and public utility maintenance crews.

The next week's *Townsmen* newspaper revealed the results of a state-wide CD radio test with local members Don W1HRY, Ted W1FFO, George W1SRG, Ed W1RPM, Gordon W1BBO, Willard W1NWO with CD Director Irving Gramkow riding in the car. The article also noted they were seeking new recruits.

Civil Defense Radio Gear

Across America Civil Defense was taking off big time in 1951, and not only commercial amateur radios such as Gonset Communicators were purchased by the FCDA for town use, but homebrew ones were pushed into service as well, with articles often seen in QST. Typical Civil Defense Radios in the 1950s included:



A Johnson Viking-II CDC AM/CW transmitter for HF running a pair of 6146's modulated by 807's. The author ran one of these for many years.



**THE WORLD'S MOST VERSATILE XMTR
FOR MOBILE OR FIXED OPERATION
FOR NOVICE OR EXPERT**

Buy **THE XMTR**
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For Hams, Business Organizations,
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Harvey-WELLS BANDMASTER

— 40 TO 50 WATTS —

BANDMASTER SENIOR . . .

A complete ready-to-go phone transmitter including new crystal-oscillator — vfo switching circuit — Phone or CW — 100% break-in-operation — Eight bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 11, 10, 6 and 2 meters — No plug-in coils — completely wired and tested. Tubes: 6AQ5 Crystal Osc., 6AQ5 Buffer Mult., 807 Final, 2-6L6 class B Modulators. Sturdy Steel Cabinet 12" x 8" x 8"

\$111.50

BANDMASTER DELUXE . . .

The last word in a versatile small transmitter for home or commercial use. Thousands now in use in foreign countries for important applications and now adopted by many of our communities for civilian defense. Has built-in three tube preamplifier for use with crystal mike PLUS all the features of the Bandmaster Sr.

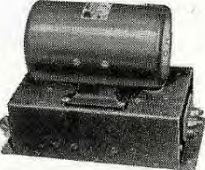
\$137.50

BANDMASTER POWER SUPPLIES

APS-50—Delivers 425 V at 275. ma. and 6.3 V at 4 amps. May be mounted on rack panel.
For 110 Volt A.C.
50-60 Cycles
\$39.50



DPS-50—A Dynamotor Supply for Portable operation. Delivers 300 Volts, 250 ma.
For 6 volt operation **\$87.50**
For 12 volt operation **\$54.50**



REMEMBER — Your Bandmaster is protected by a continuing Technical Bulletin Service mailed regularly to all registered owners. It provides methods of adding new features as they are developed. No Bandmaster becomes obsolete or outmoded.

Harvey-WELLS ELECTRONICS, INC.
Southbridge, Mass. Send now for latest catalog.
Export Dept. 13 East 40th Street, N.Y.

The Harvey Wells TBS-50 "Bandmaster" HF and VHF AM and CW transmitter, made in Southbridge MA. The RF final was an 807 modulated by a pair of 6L6's.



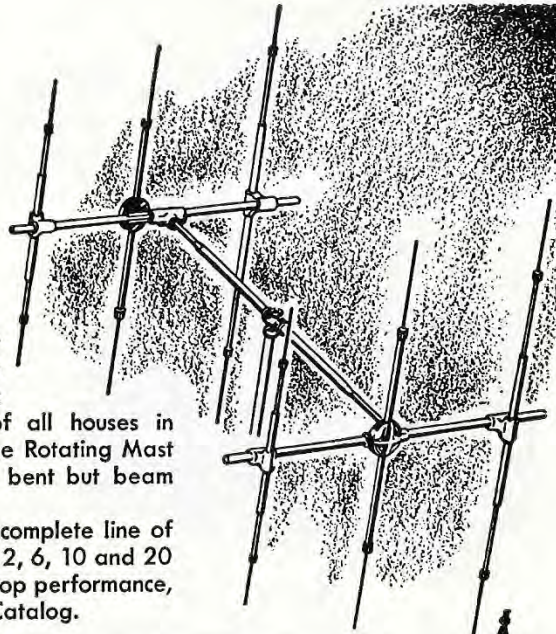
A 1960 FCDA Gonset Communicator III AM transceiver for 2-meters, like ones our club used at the Wellesley Hills Civil Defense. The first Communicator came out in 1952, ready for the new Civil Defense efforts. It could be run from 115VAC or 12VDC and used a 2E26 RF amp modulated by a 6L6 for 6 Watts out. There were 2-meter and 6-meter versions for CD or amateur use. Power consumption was 95 Watts.

Gonset converters were often used for mobile reception and a receiver similar to the Hammarlund HQ129 or National HFS was used at Command Centers. Also the Navy surplus SCR522 was used for 2-meters and W1GAC's Mighty Mo was seen in the December 1951 QST. Antennas were homebrew, commercial, or even locally made such as Workshop Associates (where Harry W1LMU worked at) dipoles and beam antennas from their plant in Needham.

Outstanding Performance

"Was dumbfounded to find that my 6-Element 2-Meter Workshop Beam survived a 95 mph wind which took shingles off of ninety-five per cent of all houses in neighborhood, took down trees, etc. The Rotating Mast $2\frac{3}{4}$ -inch diameter $1/16$ -inch wall was bent but beam okay . . . W2BNX."

This 2-Meter Beam is just one of a complete line of WORKSHOP amateur antennas for the 2, 6, 10 and 20 meter bands. For rugged strength and top performance, get WORKSHOP. Write for Amateur Catalog.



THE **WORKSHOP ASSOCIATES, Inc.**

Specialists in High-Frequency Antennas

135 CRESCENT ROAD NEEDHAM HEIGHTS 94 MASSACHUSETTS

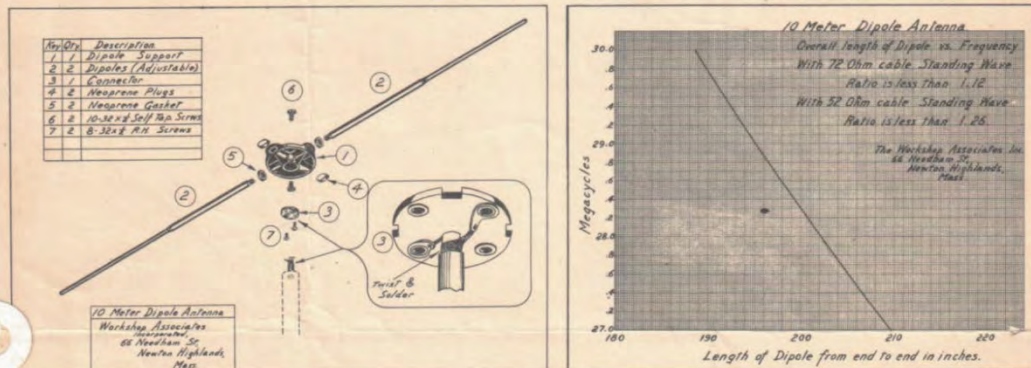


Workshop Associates antenna ad as seen in the October 1950 QST

AMATEUR 10-METER DIPOLE ANTENNA

Model #29AD

This new Workshop antenna is designed to cover the spectrum from 27 mc. to 30 mc. Note that this includes the new 11-meter band (see graph). To obtain this wide coverage, the elements have been made adjustable as to length. Each element is composed of two aluminum alloy sections which telescope together to any desired length between 130 and 214 inches.



A dipole antenna is characteristically bi-directional. Many amateurs use a permanent, fixed antenna, but is usually desirable to rotate even a dipole as its pattern resembles a figure 8. The antenna should be used with the Workshop stationary or rotating mast equipment for an economical installation.

As in all Workshop antennas, the construction is heavy enough to withstand high winds. Standard low-loss coaxial cable such as RG/8U, RG/11U, and others in this series, are recommended for use with this antenna.

10-Meter Dipole Antenna, Model #29AD (not including mast equipment).....\$6.75

THE WORKSHOP ASSOCIATES
INCORPORATED
Specialists in High-Frequency Antennas
66 NEEDHAM STREET, NEWTON HIGHLANDS 61, MASS.



Workshop Associates 10-meter dipole (W1LMU archives at W1DAN)

Club Growth and Nearby Efforts

Scott Nacey noted in a recent email:

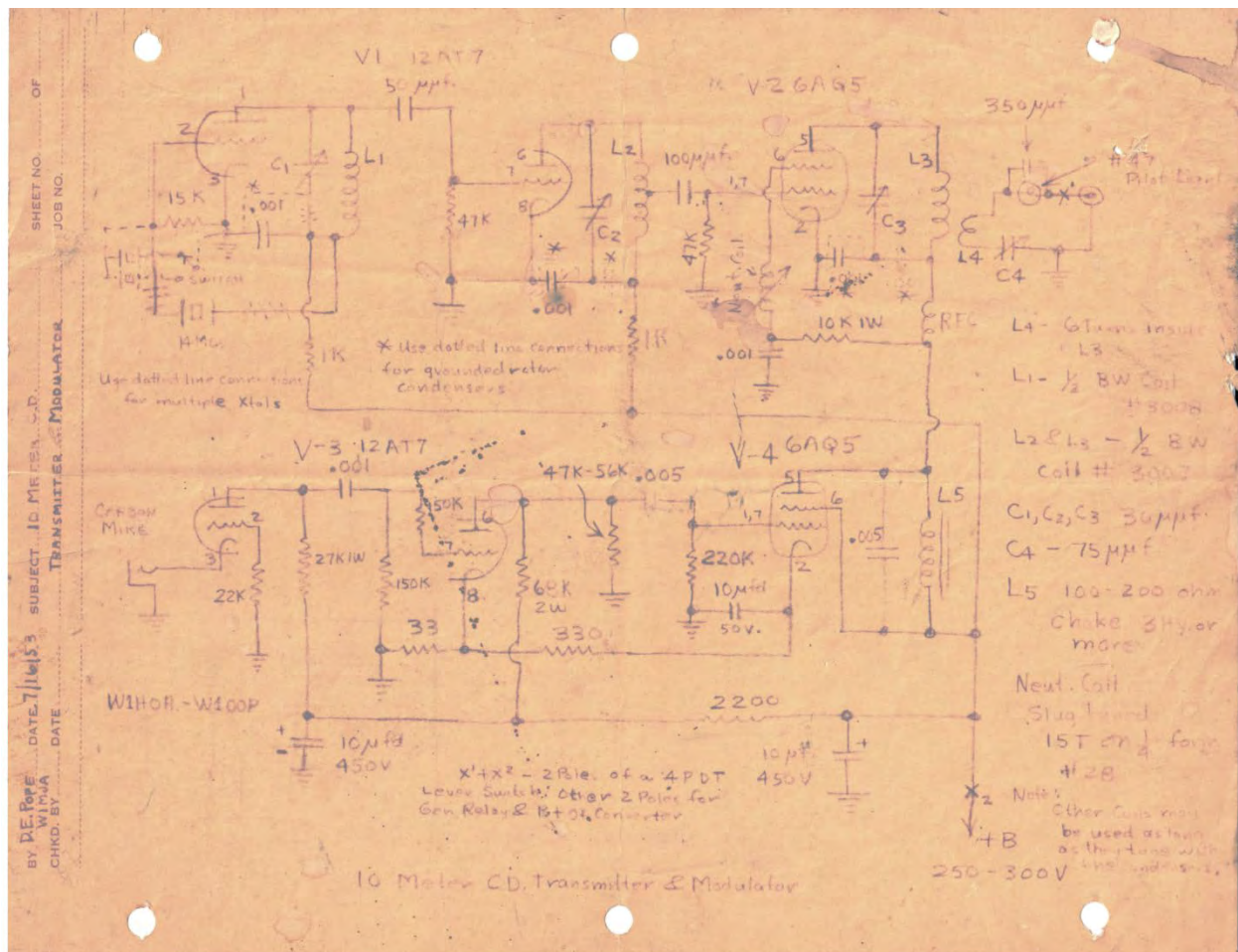
That same library was later fitted out with CD beds, provisions, generators etc. The town purchased 10 CD radios, likely the yellow AM "goony boxes" I saw in the

1970's. In 1951, ten CD radios were purchased and given to hams strategically located around the town, the tenth was a mobile station. There was also an HF receiver at CD HQ in the library in 1951. WARS was initially discussed as a requirement February 22, 1951, as documented in the Townsman with a first meeting of the club with a CD charter on October 3, 1951.

In August of 1952 the Civil Defense amateur radio structure evolved into RACES (<https://www.usraces.org/>) formed by the FCC, Office of Civil Defense and the ARRL. At this time the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society had installed radio gear in 10 strategic spots around town, including Police and Fire stations. They communicated locally and with the state CD. That year Wellesley also assisted with the Worcester Tornado Disaster.

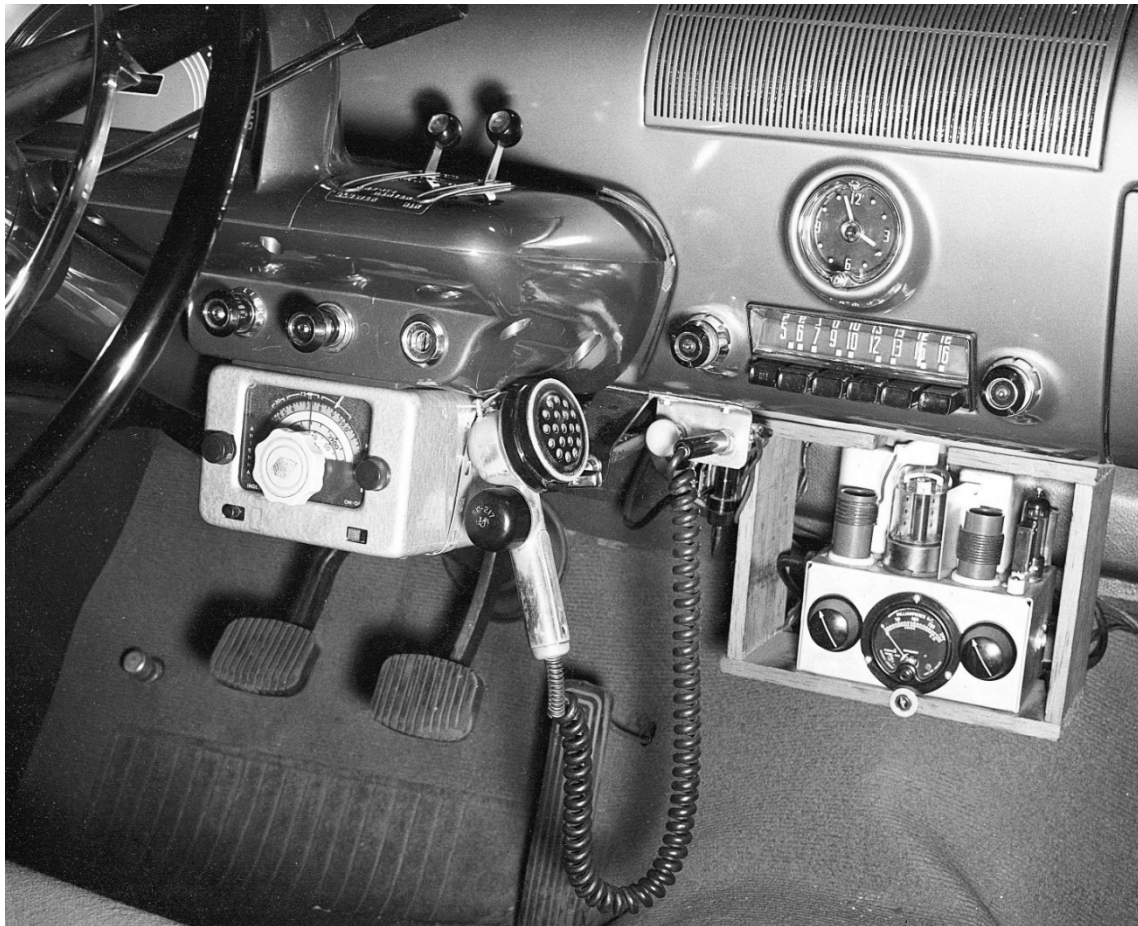


In July of 1953 Don Pope W1MJA, David Smith W1HOH and Hank Cross W1OOP of National Radio Company (Malden MA) promoted a 10-Meter CD transmitter project, making the rounds to some of the local clubs in Eastern Massachusetts to speak about the design.



10-Meter Civil Defense AM transmitter diagram by David W1HOH, Hank W1OOP and Don W1MJA in 1953 that used a 12AT7 oscillator feeding a 6AQ5 RF power tube, for about 4 Watts output (W1LMU archives at W1DAN)

Framingham resident George Mouridian W1GAC developed his “Mighty-Mo” transmitter that was published in the December 1951 QST and an updated version appeared in the May 1954 QST, and the Mobile Handbook. This was an example of homebrew gear for pleasure and Civil Defense use as George was a Framingham Civil Defense member who lived close to MEMA headquarters.



The Mighty-Mo Senior in George W1GAC's car with a Gonset converter feeding the car radio for reception (W1GAC archives at W1DAN, see May 1954 QST).

Many town Civil Defense shelters had Gonset Communicators, TBS-50's as well as a Johnson Viking transmitter for HF at the Command Centers. In the late 1950s local Civil Defense efforts started waning as the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and amateur radio RACES structures grew (<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency>).

Wellesley Civil Defense Work

In 1954 Wellesley CD Director Jack Dempsey noted that they assisted during hurricanes Carol and Edna, increasing the interest of CD of the townspeople.

After being assistant Civil Defense Director, In June of 1955 WWII veteran and club member Horace "Skid" Schermerhorn W1TTY became the town's Civil Defense Director, serving until 1959 or later (when the town annual reports did not include CD reports for a few years). He reported there were no public civil defense drills and command post exercises were halted as MEMA was moving to Framingham that year. The Fire department obtained CD radio gear and a new antenna was installed at the Wellesley Hills library so that they could talk with Sector Headquarters.



In 1956 Wellesley Civil Defense was active during state and national drills, the town's communications systems were expanded, and the club started replacing old gear, all with the help of the Federal Matching Funds Program. Horace noted that there was a lack of CD volunteers.

In 1957 the town received \$5,000 in reimbursement from the federal matching funds program for CD and town radio gear. Government surplus gear under the Surplus Property Program was also received by the town.

In 1958 the Wellesley radio nets continued to be held every week (since 1952), one state-wide exercise was held and more gear was received from the Surplus Property Program. The Federal Civil Defense Administration was merged into the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization.

The December 11, 1958 *Townsmen* noted the CD drills every Sunday morning and Wellesley Junior High now had a radio club.

Horace noted in the 1959 town annual report that little activity occurred in Civil Defense that year with no sector or state practices, but the weekly radio nets continued and no matching funds requests were issued.

The December 22, 1960 *Townsmen* quoted Director James Russell saying that Wellesley Civil Defense was flailing. The article noted:

"I have found that what we're doing is financing a communications club in the event of disaster." Although the communications group is enthusiastic and "gives freely of its time," Russell found that the quarters in the basement of the Wellesley Hills Library "leak when it rains. The radio equipment is rapidly deteriorating."

In the article Director Russell later notes:

Wellesley is listed as a 25 station town," he explained. "We have eight active stations; six residential, one police and one Civil Defense. If we bought six sets in 1961, six in 1962 and six in 1963, we would then have to be concerned only with replacements."

Summary

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society was formed in 1951 as a Civil Defense effort for the town, fed by national and state structures and funding. With accomplished leaders the club did a lot in helping the town's Civil Defense to start well, but the radio defense effort petered out at the end of the decade.

From our town's post-war Civil Defense and radio club beginnings, we do not have a lot of information until about 1964 where we have two binders of Secretary and Treasurer reports, but we do know that our club held practice nets and taught Morse code and theory classes to bring in new hams, and the members stayed active on the air and performing public service. There was no newsletter initially and we do not know exactly when the Spark Gap started.

In this second article we revealed how some of our Wellesley ham radio folks after World War II formed our club to support the new Civil Defense structure. In our next article, member Scott Nacey KK6IK will explore our activities of the 1960s and 1970s. Many thanks to Tyson Bolles of the Wellesley Free Library for access to the town's annual reports.

Dan Brown
W1DAN

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